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PRESS AVAILABILITY

BY

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER

AND

RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI KOZYREV

Friday, June 10, 1994

Conrad Hotel
Istanbul, Turkey

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER: I've been meeting with the Foreign Minister for two and a half hours. We fortunately had lunch next to each other today, came back and have been upstairs in my suite so we've had a good opportunity to talk. As you might imagine, we went over a number of issues. We've discussed, as we usually do, the state of U.S./Russian relations and I would describe them as being excellent. We are working on a number of matters in a cooperative way, exchanging views and working our way through the problems. We talked about our leaders being together at the G-7 in Naples and the opportunity that will give them to have an exchange of views. We talked about some of the issues relating to Naples.

We talked about North Korea. As you perhaps know, our two Presidents discussed that subject on the telephone and we are proceeding to work together on a sanctions resolution that will contain both reference to sanctions as well as to, at some point in the process, an international conference.

We discussed the way we are working together on Bosnia stemming from the May 13 meeting in Geneva. The Contact Group is actively working on a proposal which hopefully will get the agreement of both the parties. As we said in Geneva, the Ministers will meet again whenever it would be desirable as soon as it's important to do so. We are prepared to do that when it would serve a purpose. I think that this is another example of our working in good cooperation to try to resolve an exceedingly difficult problem.

We actually spent a good deal of time talking about the Partnership for Peace. We are looking forward to an early adherence to the Partnership by Russia, but I think it's most appropriate for me to let the Foreign Minister describe how that will take place. We've had a very positive set of exchanges on that and, of course, today the NACC was another indication of the close relationship we have working that problem.

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Q: Mr. Secretary, do the events that are now occurring in Rwanda constitute genocide or not?

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER: They certainly are acts of genocide. I think that is the operative term that is used from a legal standpoint. If there is any particular magic in calling it genocide, I have no hesitancy in saying that. But it is a legal standard that brings into operation various legal strictures. My take is that the phrase is "acts of genocide." That is why the State Department has used those terms. It wasn't anything that we accepted the context of the international strictures with respect to that.

It is a terrible situation there. One group is wreaking a terrible kind of vengeance on another group because of their different tribal or ethnic characteristics. It is the classic definition of acts of genocide.

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